

## **Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani  
Monica Simon

DATE: May 25, 2000

RE: Substance Abuse Clients in Trouble with the Law Before and After Services

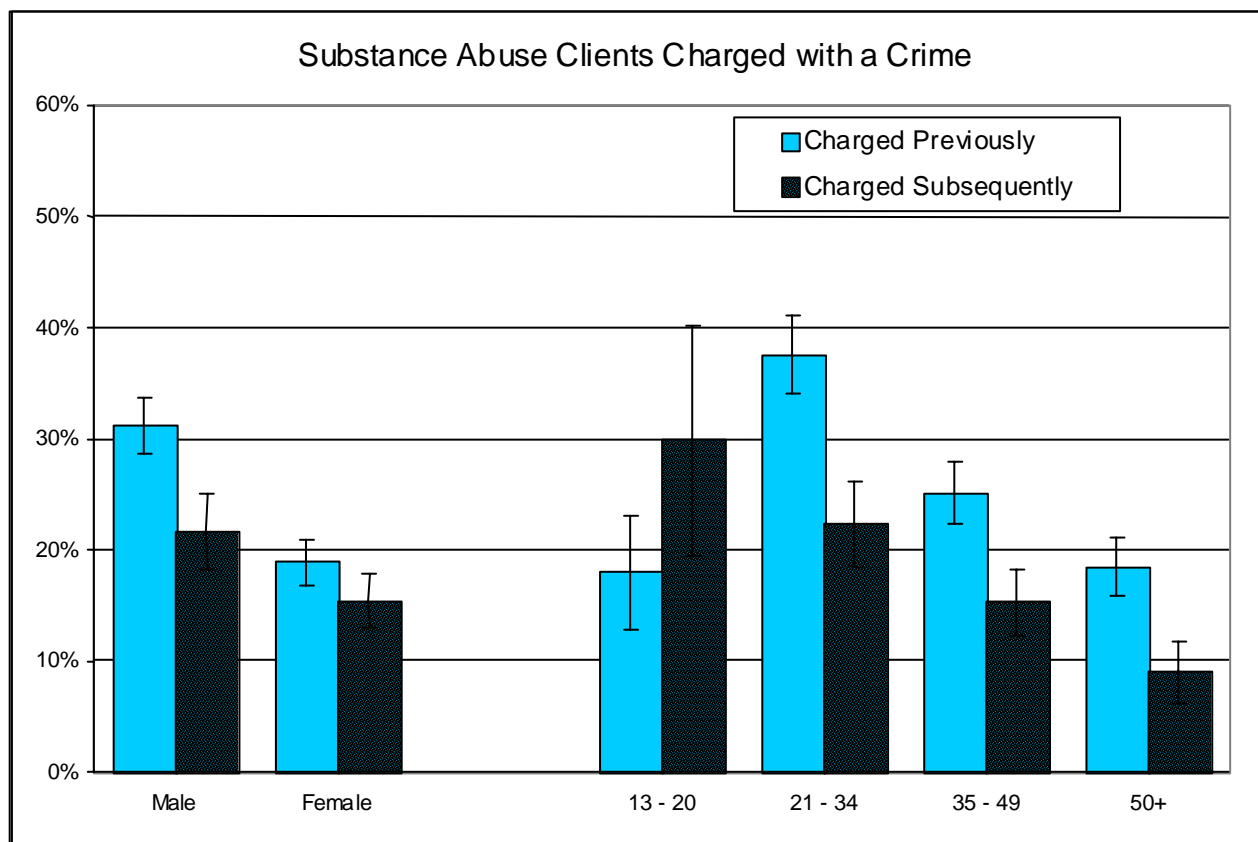
This is the second of our brief reports of measures for substance abuse programs at community mental health centers in Vermont. Last week we reported on the relationship between community treatment for substance abuse problems and rates of hospitalization for behavioral health care before and after treatment ([www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/2001/pip051801.pdf](http://www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/2001/pip051801.pdf)). This week we are reporting on the relationship between community treatment for substance abuse problems and rates at which clients get into trouble with the law before and after treatment.

For this analysis, data sets that include basic information on all individuals charged with a crime in Vermont were compared, for specified periods of time, to the MSR data sets that include basic information on people served by community programs. The attached graph and table provide the annual average rates at which people who received community based substance abuse treatment were charged with a crime during the year before and the year after receiving community treatment for people served during FY1998 and 1999. Because the data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to derive unduplicated counts of people served across facilities.

As you will see, there is a significant decrease in criminal justice involvement for both men and women, and for all ages over 21. There is, however, a significant increase in criminal justice involvement between the year before and the year after treatment for the 13 to 20 age group.

We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions for further research to [jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us) or 802-241-2638.

**CMHC Substance Abuse Clients Charged with a Crime  
During the Year Before and After Treatment  
Annual Averages FY 1998 - 1999**



	Two Year Averages					
	Number Served	Number Charged Previously	Number Charged Subsequently	Percent Charged Previously	Percent Charged Subsequently	P-value*
Total	4,340 ± 29	1208 ± 82	865 ± 112	28% ± 1.9%	20% ± 2.6%	0.001
Gender						
Male	3,147 ± 27	983 ± 78	681 ± 108	31% ± 3%	22% ± 3%	0.001
Female	1,192 ± 10	225 ± 24	184 ± 29	19% ± 2%	15% ± 2%	0.036
Age						
13 - 20	776 ± 13	140 ± 40	232 ± 80	18% ± 5%	30% ± 10%	0.046
21 - 34	1,591 ± 18	597 ± 56	355 ± 61	38% ± 4%	22% ± 4%	0.001
35 - 49	1,603 ± 18	403 ± 44	245 ± 48	25% ± 3%	15% ± 3%	0.001
50+	369 ± 4	68 ± 10	33 ± 10	18% ± 3%	9% ± 3%	0.001

\*P-value is the probability that the difference observed in the number of previous and subsequent hospitalizations is due to chance. NS indicates that the proportion is not statistically significantly different at 0.05 level of significance.

Based on analysis of Monthly Service Reports submitted to DDMHS by designated Community Service Providers, and data on people charged with a crime provided by The Center for Justice Research.

Because the State of Vermont does not have unique client identifiers across service providers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to provide unduplicated counts of people hospitalized before and after treatment (with 95% confidence intervals).